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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the fact of Armenian aggression in the district of Agdam of the Azerbaijani Republic has caused strong condemnation by the leading countries.

In particular, a statement by Michael McCurry, spokesman of the United States Department of State, dated 23 July 1993 says that an "attack on the Azerbaijani city of Agdam by Nagorno-Karabakh Armenian forces jeopardizes efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peacefully. The United States Government strongly condemns this action, which cannot be justified on the ground of legitimate self-defense. We call on the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians to cease their hostile military actions and withdraw completely and unconditionally from Agdam. We also call on them to reconfirm as soon as possible their commitment to the CSCE Minsk Group proposal, which is intended to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 822 and pave the way for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh dispute."

The statement stresses further that "the Azerbaijanis, Armenians and Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians all accepted the CSCE Minsk Group proposal, which calls for the withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kelbadjar district and other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan, a temporary cease-fire, deployment of international monitors, and the resumption of peace negotiations. This proposal remains the best chance to end the fighting. Unfortunately, the attack on Agdam calls into question the commitment of the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. We remain convinced that a peaceful resolution is in the best interest of the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, and we urge them to abandon efforts to resolve the conflict militarily."

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative